

to those projects which meet rather stiff tests as to their need, the professional standards of their service, and the quality of their administration, including particularly their financial credit and the likelihood the loan will be repaid. The Legislative Council is now considering the proposed legislation. If the plan is adopted by the General Assembly, it will do much to assure the construction of a new South Baltimore General Hospital.

I am informed that it will cost more than \$12 million to carry out the building of this new South Baltimore Hospital. A federal grant of Hill-Burton funds can be reasonably expected for \$700,000. Under the proposed State legislation, a low-cost, anticipated State loan of \$7 million would be available. With present resources of cash, securities and bequests and other assets of \$2,335,000, the amount required through public subscription for the South Baltimore General's new hospital is \$2 million. This means for each \$1 subscribed by the public an additional \$5 is available to do the job.

I have done everything and am willing to do everything I can to make it possible that the new hospital be constructed. Here is an indispensable service. Statistics show that about one-eighth of the population needs a hospital every year.

We talk much of the free enterprise system. It seems to me that we have a job here for those who believe in the voluntary way. Two million dollars is a lot of money, and yet, it is not too large in the light of the over-all cost of this new installation. Yet again, it is large because the Baltimore area is not dominated by one or two great locally based companies which might rise to the occasion and cover most of the requirements with generous contributions. Baltimore has many large industrial plants which have their headquarters elsewhere. Too often, a local plant executive must fight hard and tenaciously to persuade an absentee management that it must share its community responsibilities in this area, as well as in its home city.

I want to get directly to you with this challenge. Of the hospitals in metropolitan Baltimore, South Baltimore General is one of only two which do not have ready-made support. Religious and other organizations, or branches of the government, take on the task of meeting most of the financial requirements of the other hospitals, excepting in a few cases where large endowments created decades ago do so. South Baltimore General has no such resources, unless — and I believe that this is the one sure way to handle its needs — South Baltimore General is adopted by the industrial and business leadership of our city. Here truthfully is a chance for business to show its best